



## H.Con.Res. 297 – Recognizing the 60th anniversary of the integration of the United States Armed Forces

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### FLOOR SITUATION

H.Con.Res. 297 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Mike Rogers (R-AL) on February 14, 2008. The resolution was referred to the House Committee on Armed Services, but was never considered.

H.Con.Res. 297 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on July 14, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

H.Con.Res. 297 resolves that it is the sense of Congress to honorably and respectfully recognize the historic significance and to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of President Truman's Executive Order 9981 signed on July 26, 1948 that declared it to be the policy of the President that there shall be equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the armed services without regard to race, color, religion or national origin thereby beginning the process of ending segregation in the United States Armed Forces.

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### BACKGROUND

According to the U.S. Army, President Harry Truman signed Executive Order 9981 on July 26, 1948, establishing the President's Committee on Equality of Treatment and Opportunity in the Armed Services. To accompany this Order, President Truman also issued Executive Order 9980 which created a Fair Employment Board to eliminate racial discrimination in federal employment hiring practices. Executive Order 9981 had set the Armed Forces on course towards full integration, and on September 30, 1954, the Secretary of Defense announced that the last all-black military unit had been abolished.

In observance of Executive Order 9981, the U.S. Army Material Command has requested that each of its major subordinate commands hold events and programs commemorating the beginning of the integration of the U.S. Military. Towards this effort, the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command will publish a series of articles highlighting the contributions of African Americans to the military and a chronology highlighting the effects of Executive Order 9981 in the military today.

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### STAFF CONTACT

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